Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting in Singapore to be held in December, 1996;

(b) whether the Government had made a major move to seek changes in the World Trade Organisation's Trade Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement defying the pressures from the developed countries especially the United States and the European Union;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the stand to be taken by India at the Singapore meeting;

(e) the nature of assistance likely to be given by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to the developing countries with regard to trade issues coming up at the above meeting; and

(f) the role of the WTO in defining the natural frontiers of a body dealing with international trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). India had initiated discussion in the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) of the WTO on access to transfer environmentally sound technologies and products mandated for use under national or international law. In this connection, certain suggestions were made on amending the TRIPS Agreement suitably. This subject will continue to be discussed in the CTE after the Singapore Ministerial Conference.

(d) India's stand at the Singapore Ministerial Conference is under finalisation.

(e) From time to time, UNCTAD organises workshops, seminars and meeting to help developing countries in the WTO negotiations. Recently, UNDP/ UNCTAD organised a Ministerial Round Table Meeting on "Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development" in Geneva from 30th September to 1st October, 1996.

A high level segment on Foreign Direct Investment and development in a globalising world economy, i.e. "UNCTAD Global Investment Forum" was held as a part of Trade and Development Board 43rd Session on 10th October, 1996.

(f) The scope, functions and structure of the WTO are laid down in Article II, III and IV of the Marakkesh Agreement Establishing the WTO.

Decline in Grant of Bank Loans

*223 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total loans sanctioned by the public sector banks and financial institutions during the first half of the current financial year have declined as compared to the loans sanctioned during the same period in the last financial year;

(b) if not, the details thereof, and

(c) the reasons, if any, identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). As reported by Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding net non-food bank credit of 27 public sector banks has shown an increase as given below :

(Rs. Crores)

As on last Friday of	Non-food bank credit
September, 1996	1,89,048
September, 1995	1,67,032

As far as financial/investment institutions are concerned, Industrial Development Bank of India have reported that assistance sanctioned and disbursed by these institutions during April-September 1995 and 1996 was as under :

(Rs. crores)

	1995 (April-September)	1996 (April-September)	Percentage Change
Sanctions	33,526	23,243	(-) 30.7
Disbursements	15,246	19,696	(+) 29.2

The Industrial Development Bank of India have also reported that the decline in sanctions is mainly due to comparatively lower number of large projects assisted during April-September, 1996 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Committee on Pay Structure for Employees of RRBs

*224. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has appointed any Committee to examine the present pay structure for the employees of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects to be examined by the committee with composition thereof and the time by which it is likely to submit the report;

(c) whether any interim report has been submitted by the committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, at the instance of Government, constituted a